

REMARKS

Claims

Claims 36-51 were pending in this application. Claims 41, 45, and 51 were objected to because of informalities. Claim 36 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Japanese Patent Application Publication 59-127 006 to Tatsumi ("Tatsumi"). Claims 36, 44, 46, and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,260,828 to Londono ("Londono"). Claim 44 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Tatsumi in view of Londono. Further, claim 36 was provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claim 4 of copending U.S. Pat. Appl. No. 10/191,478. The Examiner indicated that claims 37-43, 45, 47, and 49-51 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 36, 44, 46, and 48 have been canceled. Claims 37-39, 41-43, 45, 47, and 49-51 have been amended. After amendment, claims 37-43, 45, 47, and 49-51 are pending in this application.

Applicant has amended claims 41, 45, and 51 to correct the minor errors noted by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Examiner's objection of claims 41, 45, and 51.

Applicant has cancelled claims 36, 44, 46, and 48. Therefore, the Examiner's rejections of claims 36, 44, 46, and 48 are moot.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for acknowledging that claims 37-43, 45, 47, and 49-51 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claims 37-43 and 45 by rewriting them in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim 36. Further, Applicant has amended claims 47 and 49-51 by rewriting them in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim 46. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 37-43, 45, 47, and 49-51 as amended should be allowed.

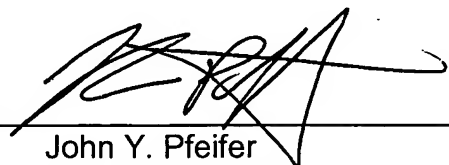
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
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